For additional questions or concerns about COVID-19 or the vaccine contact us at mayor@montgomeryal.gov. We will do our best to submit questions to medical and public health professionals and respond as soon as possible.

City of Montgomery

Facts about the COVID-19 Vaccine

Who makes the vaccine?

Currently, there are three vaccines available (**Pfizer-NioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson**) authorized and recommended to prevent COVID-19. Each went through a rigorous, transparent clinical trial and approval process and were found to be >94% effective.

Medical experts agree all three vaccines are safe and highly effective against COVID-19, protecting you from:

- X SERIOUS ILLNESS
- X HOSPITALIZATION
- X DEATH

>94% EFFECTIVE

Will the vaccine give me COVID-19?

No. The vaccines do not contain anything that can make you sick nor will it give you COVID-19.

The vaccines do not contain the full live SARS-CoV-2 virus and therefore cannot cause COVID-19. The vaccines contain either mRNA (non-infectious genetic material), viral vectors (modified versions of live viruses), or protein subunits (parts of viral proteins).None of these vaccine types can cause infection.

What is the Delta variant? Will the COVID-19 vaccine protect me against it?

Yes. Vaccination offers the best protection against the Delta variant. Vaccination provides direct protection to individuals who are vaccinated.

The Delta variant is now the dominant COVID-19 strain in the U.S. It is currently responsible for 83% of new COVID-19 cases in the U.S. The Delta variant is more contagious than other variants, meaning it can be spread more easily.

Though the impact of the Delta variant is still being studied, it appears to be more likely to lead to hospitalizations and deaths, especially among unvaccinated people.

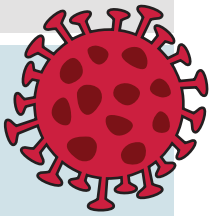
Studies across the world show that the vaccines available in the U.S. are effective against the Delta variant.

Is it safe for children to get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

Yes. Currently children age 12 and up are eligible to become vaccinated against COVID-19.

As of July 2021, those ages 12-17 can receive the two-dose Pfizer vaccine. Trials are underway for younger children, with results and approvals expected within the next few months.

Vaccination for eligible children is safe and effective at preventing them from becoming infected with the virus, get sick, and spread the virus to others.



What is a breakthrough case of COVID-19?

A vaccine breakthrough infection is defined as the detection of COVID-19 after a person has completed all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. There have been breakthrough cases of COVID-19 infection for those vaccinated, but they are rare, and likely to be mild.

Recent studies suggest that those who are fully vaccinated and have a breakthrough Delta infection are 94% less likely to be hospitalized. By preventing severe outcomes, the vaccines are working. So, while you still may get COVID-19, you are strongly protected against the severe effects of the virus.

Do I still need to wear a mask?

Yes. We will still need to protect our families, friends and communities from COVID-19 while people are getting vaccinated: Mask, Social Distance, Avoid Large Groups, Practice Good Hand Hygiene.

What are the cost associated with the vaccine?

All vaccines provided through the U.S. government will be free of charge to all individuals, including those without insurance. For those who have insurance, your information will be collected so the vaccine provider can bill for administrative costs, but there will be no out-of-pocket cost to the individual.

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City of Montgomery

Facts about the COVID-19 Vaccine

What is in the vaccine?

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines utilize a technology called **messenger RNA (mRNA)** which teaches your body how to respond to COVID-19, as well as lipids (fats) that help transport the vaccine into your body.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine utilizes a technology called an **adenovirus** that teaches your body how to beat COVID-19. Viral vector vaccines use a common virus ["adenovirus"] to alert your body's immune system. The virus is weakened and cannot cause disease.

How was the vaccine developed so fast?

The COVID-19 vaccination technology had been in development for over a decade. This is because the COVID-19 virus is not altogether new to us: it is caused by a coronavirus.

Prior to the current COVID-19 outbreak, scientists had been researching other coronavirus vaccines for diseases such as SARS and MERS. When the pandemic hit, scientists were able to build on this research (with more financial resources than ever before) to develop the COVID vaccines.

Will the vaccine protect me from getting sick with COVID-19?

Yes. The vaccine can keep you safe by preparingyour immune system to immediately recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19 before it can spread and cause damage.

When will I be protected?

For the **Pfizer-BioNTech** and **Moderna** vaccine you must receive 2 doses of the vaccine 3–4 weeks apart for maximum protection against COVID-19.

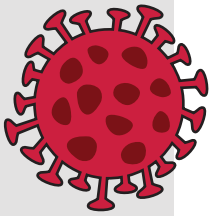
For the **Johnson and Johnson** vaccine you must receive 1 dose of the vaccine for maximum protection against COVID-19.

Full protection occurs about 2 weeks after your second dose.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine change my DNA?

No. The COVID-19 mRNA vaccines cannot alter your DNA in any way.

What if I've already had COVID-19, do I still need to get vaccinated?



Yes. It is important to get vaccinated for longer and better protection.

According to the CDC, "because there are severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, the vaccine should be offered to you regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection."

Will I experience side effects after taking the vaccine?

You may have some side effects from the COVID-19 vaccination, which are normal signs that your body is building protection from the virus.

Common side effects are pain and swelling on the arm where you received the shot, fever, chills, tiredness, and headache (similar to flu vaccine side effects), which go away in a few days at most.

Where can I find more information about the COVID-19 vaccine?

There are several reputable sources to learn more:

- Center for Disease Control (CDC.gov)
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS.gov)
- World Health Organization (WHO.int)

Prepared by Partners In Health; Updated August, 2021.

Sources: Resolve to Save Lives, CDC, Science News, National Public Radio, Prime Care Technologies. This information is based on currently available scientific evidence, reports, emergency use authorization details and expert opinion, and is subject to change. This document will be updated as necessary evidence and information about the COVID-19 vaccine in Montgomery becomes available.